

TELLOFAX 18

DO NOT CIRCULATE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

CD. NO.

DATE DISTR. 29 October 1952

NO. OF PAGES 4

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSES OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Medical College

1. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) Medical College is located at Chiem Hoa, north of Tuyen Quang. There are now 115 students enrolled in the College, with about 20 in each year of the six-year program of studies. The students have completed secondary schooling and passed the equivalent of a baccalaureat examination.
2. The staff of the College is as follows:

Director

Dr. Ho Dac Gi, former assistant lecturer in the medical faculty of Hanoi University. Dr. Gi is not a Communist.

General Supervisor of Studies

Dr. Le Van Chanh, former personal physician of Ho Chi Minh. Dr. Chanh is a Communist.

Director of Training Hospital

Dr. Ton That Tung, former assistant lecturer in the medical faculty of Hanoi University. President of the DRV Red Cross. As of July 1952 Dr. Tung was a non-Communist.

Professors

Dr. Hoang Tich Tri, a bacteriologist and a non-Communist.

Dr. Vu Huu Chanh, Secretary of the DRV Red Cross, founder of the first-aid corps. Dr. Chanh is considered a reactionary.

Dr. Nguyen Van Tin, a Communist since December 1951.

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET/CONTROL~~ - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

[illegible]

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

- 2 -

Professors

Dr. Do Xuan Hop, Director of the Medical Training School at Thai Nguyen.

Nguy Nhu Kontoum, Professor of Physics and Medical Chemistry.

3. The six-year course given at the College is the equivalent of that obtained at the Medical School of Hanoi University. There is, however, one major difference in the program: The first year is not devoted to basic instruction in physics, chemistry, and biology; courses in these subjects - taught by Nguy Nhu Kontoum - are distributed throughout the six-year course.
4. The Medical College has always been considered by the DRV as a hotbed of reactionaries. Dr. Le Van Chanh, the Communist supervisor responsible for the political life of the College, has been virtually quarantined by the professors and students, and he exercises almost no control. About ten percent of the student body is Communist, but this group has not succeeded in converting the other students. Drs. Ho Dac Gi and Ton That Tung have repeatedly asserted at meetings that they intend to serve the Resistance by training competent technicians but not to engage in politics. The Medical College is often ironically referred to as the "Kingdom of Ho Dac Gi."
5. During 1948 and 1949 the DRV authorities divided the College into two sections: military medicine and civil medicine. Students in the military medicine section enjoyed numerous material advantages, such as better clothes, better diet, and more pocket money. It turned out, however, that Communists were the only students to enroll in this section and that the other students refused to do so. As a result of a series of incidents between the two sections, the division was abolished in 1950. Since 1949 all students are drafted for military service.
6. In July 1952 the DRV authorities decided to exercise a more strict control over the College. The class which entered the College for the 1952-53 scholastic year is composed almost entirely of Communist cadres, and the secondary-school diploma is no longer required for admission. At a frank meeting with his students in July 1952, Ton That Tung said that henceforth it would be necessary for each student to come to a political decision and that it would no longer be possible to maintain an independent attitude. After this meeting a number of students escaped; as of late September 1952, 14 of them had gone to Hanoi.
7. These students believe that the Medical College and DRV doctors in general will from now on have to toe the Party line. In the past they have been in constant conflict with the military health organization directed by Dr. Vu Van Can. It is also believed that Ho Dac Gi and Ton That Tung will be replaced during 1952. In January 1951 Dr. Nguyen Trinh Co and Dr. Nguyen Si Quoc, both Communists since 1946, were sent to the Soviet Union for training, with the expectation that they would become directors of the DRV health program upon their return. Co would be in charge of medical education, and Quoc would direct the organization of preventive medicine.

Chinese Communist Advisers

8. In about January 1951 two Chinese medical advisers arrived in Vietnam: LIN Kuan-huai (2651/7070/2037) and WU (fnu) (2976). LIN was actually a pharmacist trained at a university in Shanghai. He specialized in preventive medicine. WU, who began his career as a "first-aid" (2405/0281), is a surgeon trained at a Communist medical school.
9. The arrival of these two advisers gave rise to much criticism and dissatisfaction in DRV medical circles. A congress of doctors and medical students was held in 1951, after the battle of Hao Binh, to permit DRV physicians to take an extra two months of training under the direction of the Chinese advisers. At this congress it became evident that WU was much inferior in technique to the Vietnamese doctors. Opposition to the advisers, led by Ton That Tung, became overt after a series of technical blunders, one of which was made during a leg amputation, another during ligation of the humeral artery. The Chinese advisers were recalled to China in about November 1951, and they have not yet been replaced.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - US OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

- 3 -

Living Conditions of Medical Students

10. Students at the Medical College are obliged to furnish their own clothes. They are fed by the administration of the College. The daily menu consists of rice, boiled vegetables, and salt; on holidays there is meat. As a reward for service in military surgical units during operations, the students occasionally receive bonuses of 50,000 Ho Chi Minh piasters.

Surgical Units

11. Surgical units are organized during DRV military operations. They are organized and directed from the technical point of view by Ton That Tung, from the administrative point of view by Vu Van Can's military health service. This division of responsibility has given rise to much friction. There are two types of units:
 - a. Central Units, which are at the disposition of the DRV General Staff. These units are each composed of three physicians, or three sixth-year medical students, three third-year medical students, six "social assistants" (first-degree doctors) or students from the Thai Nguyen School, 100 nurses, and 300 stretcher-bearers.
 - b. Secondary units, which are at the disposition of the military health units of DRV Army battalions and regiments. The battalions each have a permanent but rudimentary medical section; during operations they send for secondary surgical groups. The secondary surgical groups consist of two physicians or sixth-year students at the Medical College, two third-year students, four "social assistants" or students from the Thai Nguyen Medical School, 75 nurses, and 200 stretcher-bearers.
12. A surgical unit normally works about six months per year. There are now six Central Surgical Units and eleven Secondary Surgical Units. During military operations such as the Hoa Binh campaign, all of the units are mobilized.

DRV Red Cross

13. There is no DRV Red Cross operating as an autonomous welfare organization. The DRV Red Cross exists in name only and has no real function. The former Cuu Thuong (first-aid) organization, founded by the Medical Association and students of the Medical School of Hanoi University, was later called the Red Cross (Hong Thap Tu). This organization, however, was absorbed by the DRV Military Health Service as a part of the Army.
14. Ton That Tung was appointed President of the Red Cross, with Vu Huu Chanh as his Deputy, only to conduct relations with the Red Cross organization in the French-controlled zone. When the latter broadcasts an appeal to the DRV, the DRV leaders summon Tung to instruct him on how to act on behalf of the DRV Red Cross.

Medical Supplies from China

15. Chinese Communist medical aid to the DRV consists almost entirely of surgical instruments manufactured in China. Although the external appearance of these instruments is good, they are of poor quality and wear out after two periods of military operations at the front.
16. Drugs are rarely received from China. When available, they consist only of powdered quinine and a small quantity of "yellow penicillin". The latter is suitable only for external application.
17. Virtually all pharmaceutical products used by the DRV are of French and American manufacture, obtained in the French-controlled zone. There is a sufficient quantity of sulfa drugs and penicillin, but a serious shortage of quinine and emetine, or their derivatives. It is precisely illnesses normally treated by quinine and emetine that are causing the greatest damage to the DRV.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 4 -

Medical Condition of DRV Troops

18. Of the various population elements in the DRV zone, soldiers are the most pampered by the Government. They enjoy the best diet and the best medical care available. Illnesses resulting from negligence on the part of the authorities are very rare. The most common illnesses are malaria, dysentery, and to a lesser degree, tuberculosis.
19. However, whereas soldiers who are sound of body and fit for combat receive all possible cares, wounded soldiers are generally neglected and constitute the most unfortunate class of the population. Wounded soldiers are entrusted to the care of civilians thought to be especially rich. However, because of transportation difficulties they are usually left in villages close to the zone of military operations. Several years ago, when they were less numerous, the wounded were the object of ostentatious care and solicitude, as a vehicle of propaganda. Now, however, with a constant increase in their number, they are virtually abandoned.
20. Two "Homes for Invalids" exist - one in the Tam Dao Mountains west of Thai Nguyen and the other in Vinh Yen Province. These institutions, however, are only open to Communist wounded.

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY